publish it, so that people interested in the scheme may also give their views and lay them before the Government before the enquiry is completed by the said committee ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I think the idea of it was only for the purpose of collating the power demand. If the hon. Members want it, I have no objection to place the Government Order on the table of the House, and if any of the hon. Members are willing to assist the Government by giving their views as to the power demand, we shall be only too grateful."

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say whether the special officer deputed for this work had finished his work before he was appointed for investigating the conditions of cottage industry in the Presidency ? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" As I said in answer to a question that emanated from the hon. Member for Malabar, I am dealing with the report in consultation with my hon. Colleagues, His Excellency and other Members of the Government, and final orders will be issued a little later. It is impossible now to state whether the work so far done is final or not."

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" Was the special officer transferred before his work was actually completed ? You will have seen it in the local papers . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" If Government come to the conclusion that there will be more work for this committee, he will be asked to do it."

Police

Punitive police in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks.

* 113 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any longer any necessity to continue the punitive police stationed at Peddavaduvur and other villages in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Anantapur district ?

A.—The continuance of the additional police will come up for the consideration of Government in April next when a report from the District Magistrate is due.

Railways

Proposed construction of a railway line in Salem district.

* 114 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to have a railway line in the Salem district in connexion with the Mettur scheme, and if so, to what length and at what cost ?

A.—In October last the Railway Board sanctioned a detailed survey of a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Salem to Mettur dam via Mecheri, a distance of 26 miles. The cost of the project cannot be known until the survey is completed.

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if any idea can be given as to when this line is to be commenced ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I have not received any report from the Railways as to when they are going to commence, but the Railway administration are very anxious to commence this line with the co-operation of Government."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is the cost to be included in the Mettur project estimate, or is it a different question altogether ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The cost of this railway will be in the railway budget. It will not be in the Mettur project. The survey of the project has been completed."

Assignment of Lands

Payment of site value for getting darkhast lands.

* 115 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that members of the depressed classes are required to pay site value for getting on darkhast, valuable lands outside town limits ;

(*b*) whether any complaints have been received by the Government that the members of the depressed classes of South Kanara are too poor to take up land paying site value ;

(*c*) whether there is any provision to exempt them from payment of the site value, and who exercises that power now ; and

(*d*) whether Government have any objection to delegate the power to the Collectors of the districts in order to facilitate the assignments and, if so, what is the objection ?

A.—(*a*) Assignment of valuable land to members of the depressed classes is ordinarily on payment of the estimated market value which may be collected in easy instalments.

(*b*) No complaints have been received.

(*c*) Yes ; the power to make free grants vests in the Government.

(*d*) The Government do not consider it desirable to delegate to the Collectors of districts the power to dispose of valuable lands otherwise than on the payment of the full value for them.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Collectors are empowered to grant valuable lands within town limits free of site value ? "

The hon Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" Though the power of exemption is vested in the Government, is it not that it is generally based on the proposals of the Collector and in view of this, will the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision and delegate to the Collectors this power of exemption ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As far as I can catch the question, the answer seems to be in clause (*d*)."